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## **GRAFTON WATER DISTRICT HOLDS OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW TREATMENT FACILITY**



**Grafton, MA** - The Grafton Board of Water Commissioners, State Representative George Peterson, Jr., USDA Rural Development State Director David Tuttle and other local officials including Grafton Water Systems Manager, Matthew Pearson attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony today to mark the official opening of Grafton's new water filtration plant.

The water treatment facility was constructed during 2002 and 2003 with over \$3 million in USDA Rural Development loans and grants. Plans to build the new plant began in 2002 when two of the districts four groundwater sources were found to have higher than recommended levels of iron and manganese. The new treatment facility will improve drinking water quality by reducing the levels of such impurities.

"This water treatment plant enables the District to dramatically increase the water quality we deliver to our customers, said Robert Sims, a Grafton Water Board Commissioner. "Now that the iron and manganese is removed during the treatment process our customers are not burdened with staining and discolored water. Also, changes from the old treatment process have eliminated the use of phosphate-based chemicals that will result in a cleaner environment and help protect the Blackstone Valley watershed."

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The building consists of 5,900 square feet of space which houses four large filter vessels, a chemical treatment room, storage area and laboratory. The plant is designed to treat up to 2 million gallons of water a day. The plant was constructed by Barbato Construction and designed by Dufresne-Henry Engineering.

“The Board of Water Commissioners is deeply gratified to Congressman Richard Neal, USDA Rural Development State Director Dave Tuttle and State Representative George Peterson for their assistance in making this needed project a reality by providing low interest loans and grants,” said Alfred Corda, Chairman of the Grafton Board of Water Commissioners. “Our community is proud that a project of this magnitude could be constructed with little impact upon water rates and with such shared vision and cooperation.”

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

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